



FEEDBACK NOTE FOR REGIONAL CONCEPTS FOR THE 2014-2015 TC CYCLE

A. INTRODUCTION

The Regional Programme Note and the regional concepts were reviewed by the IAEA Secretariat based on the TC programme quality criteria provided on the PCMF IT Platform, the TC Strategy and other relevant IAEA documents.

The comments included below are intended as guidance as the country and project stakeholders proceeds with the preparation of the project proposals for the 2014-2015 TC programme.

This feedback note is aimed at providing project counterparts/proponents the results of the screening and appraisal of the proposed concepts, including the gaps/issues encountered in the documentation that should be addressed during the design phase and/or the recommendation on the viability of the proposed projects and whether or not to proceed with project design, on a case by case basis.

B. PROGRAMME SIZE:

- **Number of new concepts submitted and reviewed** : 11.
- **Number of active projects for 2014-15 (from previous cycle)** : 14
- **Total Number of projects in the pipeline for 2014-15** : 25

List of active projects in 2014-15 from previous cycle:

1. RAS1012 - Characterizing and Optimizing Process Dynamics in Complex Industrial Systems Using Radiotracer and Sealed Source Techniques
2. RAS1014 - Supporting Radiation Processing for the Development of Advanced Grafted Materials for Industrial Applications and Environmental Preservation
3. RAS5055 - Improving Soil Fertility, Land Productivity and Land Degradation Mitigation
4. RAS5056 - Supporting Mutation Breeding Approaches to Develop New Crop Varieties Adaptable to Climate Change
5. RAS5057 - Implementing Best Practices of Food Irradiation for Sanitary and Phytosanitary Purposes
6. RAS6053 - Improving Image Based Radiation Therapy for Common Cancers in the RCA Region
7. RAS6061 - Improving Cancer Management with Hybrid Nuclear Medicine Imaging
8. RAS6062 - Supporting 3D Image-Guided Brachytherapy Services
9. RAS6063 - Strengthening the Application of Nuclear Medicine in the Management of Cardiovascular Diseases
10. RAS6065 - Strengthening the Application of Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy to Improve Cancer Treatment

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11. RAS7021 - Marine benchmark study on the possible impact of the Fukushima radioactive releases in the Asia-Pacific Region
12. RAS7022 - Applying Isotope Techniques to Investigate Groundwater Dynamics and Recharge Rate for Sustainable Groundwater Resource Management
13. RAS7023 - Supporting Sustainable Air Pollution Monitoring Using Nuclear Analytical Technology
14. RAS7024 - Supporting Nuclear and Isotopic Techniques to Assess Climate Change for Sustainable Marine Ecosystem Management

C. REGIONAL PROGRAMME OVERVIEW:

(This includes overall programme relevance, ownership, commitment and sustainability as defined in the central criterion, at the regional programme level. Overall programme relevance with evidence of gap/need analysis, stakeholders' analysis and problem/objective analysis, upstream work. Areas to be addressed by the regional programme, foreseen/potential partnerships)

The Government Parties of the Regional Cooperative Agreement (RCA) have submitted eleven project concepts for 2014-2015, which have been reviewed on the basis of the RCA Strategic Priorities for 2012-2017. The proposed concepts are in the areas that have been identified as priorities for 2014-2015 by the Regional Meeting of the National RCA Representatives held in April 2012. They have been drafted by the appointed Lead Country Coordinators in consultation with the contact persons appointed by other participating Government Parties.

The analysis of the proposed portfolio of project concepts shows that an important effort has been deployed by the RCA Government Parties in terms of project identification and priority setting. However, the results are not evidenced in the overall quality of the submitted concepts. A number of concepts are not well elaborated. They contain insufficient information with weak assessment and analysis of regional situation, priority needs and approach.

The specific technical and managerial comments made by the IAEA Secretariat, as reflected below, need to be taken into consideration.

The RCA Project Concepts that have been recommended for moving forward to the design phase are found to be aligned with the RCA Strategic Priorities for 2012-2017. They are in the main areas of focus recommended for RCA activities in 2012-2017: human health, agriculture, environment and industry.

It is noted that 14 RCA on-going projects will continue from the 2012-2013 cycle to 2014-2015 cycle. Six of these projects will be completed by end 2014. The remaining eight will be completed in 2015.

For all proposed concepts, further inputs regarding the criteria and specific requirements for effective participation are required and need to be clearly elaborated. In this regard, it is essential that the required infrastructure and human and financial resources be clearly defined in order to further assess the soundness of the concepts, and their viability to develop into cooperative projects with high potential, through effective regional cooperation modalities, addressing issues and achieving objectives in the expected time frame and with adequate available resources.

D. COMMENTS ON INDIVIDUAL CONCEPTS:

(e.g. Compliance level, further information and/or clarification requirements, recommendations for the design phase, areas for improvement)

1. Concept Number & Title:

RAS2012006 - Strengthening the effectiveness and extent of medical physics education and training

Submitted by: *Regional/Cooperative Agreement* : X
 Group of Member States: (List) :
 Other: :

Comments: This concept has been assigned the first priority by the RCA Government Parties

- **On compliance with TC requirements and LFA**

The concept is in compliance with TC requirements. It addresses the lack of quality and quantity of medical physics to undertake clinical work in the various specialities of medical physics, including radiation oncology, nuclear medicine and diagnostic radiology. This is a major problem in many countries in the region. The subject is identified as a cross-cutting area in the RCA Strategic Priorities for 2012-2017.

- **Specific Technical Comments**

The objective analysis/objective tree is quite comprehensive, showing a very broad scope of the project. It is suggested to simplify the analysis for good understanding by presenting the hierarchy of objectives as well as the cause-effect logic. Yet, specific strategies and implementation modalities should be clearly elaborated in order to justify how the ten expected outputs could be achieved through regional cooperation. A set of baseline information/data should be defined before the start of the project in order to determine achievements of the anticipated outcome for the improved changes of the situation.

The proposed concept builds upon achievements of the past successful efforts of the previous RCA project (RAS6038). Through the project, a number of countries have already built up their capacities. Continuing efforts to strengthen the effectiveness and extent of medical physics through education and training is crucial to sustain the good effort.

The experiences from RAS6038 suggested that while a few countries made significant progress and achievements, other countries have not yet fully benefitted from the technical support provided by the project. The new project should have a clear strategy and appropriate activities to ensure that all participating countries benefit from this collaborative project.

The role and function of the Ministry of Health as well as academic institutions should be clearly elaborated. It is not clear how and if the education and training proposed under the project will be incorporated in the core academic system. This is especially important as the proposed education and training programme will be only sustainable through national efforts.

It is noted that the list of national counterparts and institutions is quoted from the list of RAS6038. The information should be validated and confirmed.

The requirements for participation are defined, and fulfilment of these requirements should be verified during the design phase.

While some potential partners have been identified, their specific respective involvement and participation should be further defined in more details. Specific linkage with the Asian Federation of Medical Physicists (AFMOMP) should be clearly defined.

The estimated budget states a high cost of expert missions and meetings, which should be re-assessed. As much as possible, use of phone VDO conferencing for expert meetings and e-learning technology should be encouraged as an alternative.

- **Recommended for moving forward to design phase:** YES X NO: _____

In case of **NO** the reason is:

- a) It will be supported in a Category B Project
- b) Doesn't meet TC Programme Requirements
- c) Other (Specify):

2. Concept Number & Title:

RAS2012007 - Enhancing security of municipal reclaimed water using irradiation technology to eliminate low dose of persistent organic substances and disinfection

Submitted by: *Regional/Cooperative Agreement* : X
Group of Member States: (List) : _____
Other: : _____

Comments: The concept was the eleventh in the priority order of the RCA Government Parties.

- **On compliance with TC requirements and LFA**

The concept is generally in compliance with TC requirements. It aims at using radiation technology to eliminate low dose of persistent organic substances and disinfection of municipal reclaimed water. The Radiation processing technology for specific applications including treatment of industrial waste is identified as the priority area in the RCA Strategic Priorities for 2012-2017).

- **Specific Technical Comments**

Many countries in the region are in the forefront to use radiation technology for treatment of emerging environmental pollutants. The reuse of water for industry and agriculture is a practice in many countries in the region

Why the topic is quite known, the situation and need analysis is not comprehensive. It does not provide sufficient information of the situation in the entire region. The analysis is mostly focusing on China. It does not provide a comprehensive understanding on the seriousness of the situation, the concerns and needs of many countries in the region. Without such information, the project is not justified to be considered as a regional project. It is suggested to re-conduct the situation and need analysis, using the problem tree, and convert the analysis into the objective tree to define the framework and specific objective of the project.

The treatment of waste water containing persistent organic pollutants for reuse industry is a subject of concern and interest to many international organizations. There should be a high possibility for partnership. However, the aspect was not sufficiently elaborated in the concept, it is suggested to assess and identify carefully the potential partner organizations, and develop and incorporate specific collaborative mechanisms in the project.

There is not information regarding the requirements for participation. This aspect has to be defined clearly in order to justify country participation. Specifically, the requirements in terms of infrastructure and available human resources must be defined, and fulfilment of these requirements should be verified during the design phase. For effective participation and active cooperation among potential countries to maximise the benefits of the project, only those Government Parties that could fulfil the requirements should be encouraged to participate in the project.

The proposed 2-year duration is too short for this kind of regional project. The suggested activities are not realistic and insufficient for a regional project. Yet while the Government cost sharing of Euro 300,000 was stated, there is a need of clear indication as to the arrangement how this plan will be implemented and realized.

The proposed concept is not recommended to the design stage.

- **Recommended for moving forward to design phase:** YES ____ NO: X

In case of NO the reason is:

- a) It will be supported in a Category B Project
- b) Doesn't meet TC Programme Requirements ---X
- c) Other (Specify):

3. Concept Number & Title:

RAS2012008 - HPLC based radioanalytical techniques for the Quality Control (QC) of Radiopharmaceuticals

Submitted by: *Regional/Cooperative Agreement* : X
Group of Member States: (List) : _____
Other: : _____

Comments: The concept was the tenth in the priority order of the RCA Government Parties.

- **On compliance with TC requirements and LFA**

The proposed concept is not in full compliance with TC requirement. It aims at enhancing capabilities for applying HPLC based quality control techniques for radio-pharmaceuticals. However, HPLC is not identified as the priority in the RCA Priorities for 2012-2017.

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- **Specific Technical Comments**

The proposed concept is not well formulated. The overall quality of the concept design is rather poor and does not show a good conceptualization in term of the regional needs. The required information is either missing or incomplete. The important information regarding funding and project budget is not provided.

It was also stated that the techniques are in the very preliminary stage for routine stage, so it implies that R&D work would be required to underpin the possibility and readiness for technology transfer. From a technical point of view, some key assumptions are not correctly based on existing pharmaceutical standards regulating the determination of quality and purity of radiopharmaceuticals. For instance, HPLC is not usually proposed as a routine quality control (QC) method due to higher costs and limited flexibility. The most common approach employed is Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC) after careful validation of the QC procedure using a number of ancillary analytical techniques including HPLC. Thus, HPLC is just one piece of the whole picture and does not surely exhaust the broader subject of quality control of radiopharmaceuticals. It is also important to note that the selected QC method for a specific radiopharmaceutical is normally dictated by national pharmacopeia and described in appropriate monographs. In these documents, HPLC is not commonly considered as the gold standard for establishing a QC process and, when possible, it is replaced by simpler chromatographic methods.

- **Recommended for moving forward to design phase: YES ____ NO: X ____**

In case of NO the reason is:

- a) It will be supported in a Category B Project
- b) Doesn't meet TC Programme Requirements
- c) Other (Specify): The proposed subject and technology is not within the RCA Strategic Priority

4. Concept Number & Title:

RAS2012009 - Capacity building in applications of advanced NDE technologies for enhancing industrial productivity

Submitted by: *Regional/Cooperative Agreement* : X
Group of Member States: (List) : _____
Other: : _____

Comments: The concept was the sixth in the priority order of the RCA Government Parties

- **On compliance with TC requirements and LFA**

The concept is in compliance with TC requirements. It aims at capacity building in applications of advanced Non Destructive Evaluation (NDE) for enhancing industrial productivity. Non-destructive testing is identified as the priority area in the RCA Strategic Priorities for 2012-2017).

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• **Specific Technical Comments**

The proposed concept is a request for a follow up of the on-going RCA project: "Supporting advanced Non-Destructive Examination for enhanced industrial safety, product quality and productivity (RAS1013), which was approved for implementation for 2012-2013. The new project will continue to further enhancing regional capacity in this area.

While the needs and potential benefits of this follow up might be well perceived, the proposed concept is not well formulated. The overall quality is rather poor. The required information is either missing or incomplete. The important information regarding funding and project budget is not provided. There is the need of significant improvement during the design stage.

Specifically, there should be clear elaboration of the conceptualization, specific objective and scope. It is suggested to re-conduct the situation assessment comprehensively, based on the anticipated outcome of the RAS1013, and identify clearly additional needs of technical support in order to define the scope of the new project. The logical framework matrix has to be comprehensive and well developed.

The list of national counterparts and institutions is missing. This has to be developed and validated by the Government Parties during the design stage. As the project has the focus on capacity building through effective technical transfer among the relatively advanced countries and less advanced countries, it is crucial to specify the role and contribution of the "resource" and "target" countries.

The requirements for participation are specific but rather generic. As this is a follow up project based on achievements of the previous projects, the criteria for effective participation should be clearly elaborated, in terms of required infrastructure and availability of human resources.

The mechanism for involvement of the potential end user in the project implementation should be clearly defined. This should be the key component to be incorporated in the project design.

- **Recommended for moving forward to design phase:** YES X NO: _____

In case of NO the reason is:

- a) It will be supported in a Category B Project
 b) Doesn't meet TC Programme Requirements
 c) Other (Specify):

5. **Concept Number & Title:**

RAS2012010 - Strengthening Nuclear Medicine procedures for radioisotope therapy (RIT) to improve clinical outcome of cancer patients in RCA Member States

Submitted by: *Regional/Cooperative Agreement* : X
 Group of Member States: (List) : _____
 Other: : _____.

Comments: This concept was the ninth in the priority order of the RCA Government Parties

- **On compliance with TC requirements and LFA**

The concept is generally in compliance with TC requirements. It aims at improving clinical outcome of cancer patients through strengthening nuclear medicine procedures for radioisotope therapies. Nuclear medicine is a priority area in the RCA Strategic Priorities for 2012-2017, but radioisotope based therapy is not specifically identified as the priority.

- **Specific Technical Comments**

There are cancer conditions, which may benefit from radionuclide therapies. However, as stated, radio-isotope based palliative treatment is well established and widely used in Western countries and a few countries in the region. As most Member States in the region do not have access to this treatment, their interests and needs will have to be clearly assessed.

While the proposed concept could be useful and beneficial, it is suggested to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the current situation, including availability of required facilities and human resources, in order to determine the interest and readiness of the member states in the region to gain real benefit of the technology. The results and confirmation will suggest if radio-isotope based therapy should be recognized and included as a priority for cooperation among RCA Government Parties to justify the proposed concept as a RCA project.

The requirements for participation are clearly defined, and fulfilment of these requirements should be verified during the design phases. For effective participation and cooperation, only those countries that could fulfil the requirements should be encouraged to participate in the project.

The concept suggests that the project will bring about better technical coordination among producers, distributors and consumers of the needed radiopharmaceuticals. This aspect should be further elaborated, with specific action defined.

Based on the suggested regional events and activities and the need for capacity building, three years seems too short for effective implementation. A four-year duration should be more realistic.

- **Recommended for moving forward to design phase: YES X NO: _____**

In case of **NO** the reason is:

- a) It will be supported in a Category B Project
- b) Doesn't meet TC Programme Requirements
- c) Other (Specify):

6. **Concept Number & Title:**

RAS2012011 - Plant Mutation Breeding Of Bioenergy Crops for Optimizing Marginal Land Productivity

Submitted by: *Regional/Cooperative Agreement* : X
Group of Member States: (List) :
Other: :

Comments: This concept was the second in the priority order of the RCA Government Parties.

- **On compliance with TC requirements and LFA**

The concept is in compliance with TC requirements. It focuses on developing mutant variety of bio-energy crops and water and nutrient use efficiency. Plant mutation breeding is identified as a priority in the RCA Strategic Priorities for 2012-2017.

- **Specific Technical Comments**

The analysis of objectives is incomplete and does not reflect well the project reality. For improvement, it is suggested to start with a problem tree analysis and convert it to the objective analysis.

Specifically, the project should focus on capacity development and dissemination of integrated technology on mutation induction and efficiency enhancing biotechnologies with best fit soil, water and nutrient management practice on a few regional strategic crops. Transfer of knowledge and expertise among the participating countries should be encouraged. Scope of the project should be expanded to cover other relevant aspects, such as how to transfer project results and outcome for private sector investment and commercialization.

There is an on-going RCA project: Supporting Mutation Breeding Approaches to Develop New Crop Varieties Adaptable to Climate Change (RAS5056). The project contains two components: mutation breeding and efficiency use of water and nutrient. Although the type of crops might be different from bio-energy crops, the required technologies should be similar. It is thus important to clarify the linkages and synergies between these two projects and the technical support being requested by the new project is different from what is being provided under RAS5056.

The concept clearly identified the list of national counterparts and institutions, which were simply quoted from the previous RCA project. The participation of national should be validated and confirmed.

The estimated budget is vaguely elaborated and should be more explicit with sufficient details. The estimated budget and proposed 2-year duration are not realistic for a regional project. The proposed concept is too small and, based on the current design, it is doubtful if the project results will generate any tangible contributions to attaining the anticipated objectives. The project conceptualization should be reassessed carefully and designed, taking into full consideration the result of the situation and problem tree analysis mentioned above.

- **Recommended for moving forward to design phase: YES X NO:**

In case of **NO** the reason is: a) It will be supported in a Category B Project

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b) Doesn't meet TC Programme Requirements

c) Other (Specify):

7. Concept Number & Title:

RAS2012012- Strengthening diagnostic radiology to improve cancer treatment decision-making process (CT)

Submitted by: *Regional/Cooperative Agreement* : X
Group of Member States: (List) :
Other: :

Comments: The concept was the third in the priority order of the RCA Government Parties.

- On compliance with TC requirements and LFA

The concept is in compliance with TC requirements. It aims at improving CT scanning technology and interpretation for diagnostic procedure and decision making for cancer treatment. The area of Computed Tomography (CT) is included in the priority in the RCA Strategic Priorities for 2012-2017 as part of hybrid nuclear medicine imaging (PET/CT and SPECT/CT).

- Specific Technical Comments

The objective analysis/objective tree is quite comprehensive, stating the problem and needs to be addressed by the project. The project should aim at both capacity building and regional standard setting, with the focus to transfer of knowledge and expertise from more advanced to less experienced countries. In this connection, there should be a clear elaboration on the cooperation modalities and the specific roles and contributions of the "resource countries" in the project implementation.

The requirements for participation are clearly defined, and fulfilment of these requirements should be verified during the design phases. For effective participation and cooperation, only those countries that could fulfil the requirements should be encouraged to participate in the project.

The list of counterparts/institutions is explicit; however the information regarding the availability of the infrastructure and human resources is not elaborated. This aspect should be assessed.

The concept states partnership with other external institutions such as Korea Society of Radiology and the European Society of Radiology. Specific linkage and involvement of these potential partners should be defined.

The estimated total cost of the project is vaguely elaborated without sufficient details. The proposed regional cooperation modalities are not well elaborated to justify a regional project. Based on the current design, it is also doubtful if and how the project will have tangible contribution to achieve the anticipated objective. As the project is aimed at both capacity building and standard setting, more regional events, especially regional training courses and technical meetings, will be required and should be specified during the design stage.

- Recommended for moving forward to design phase: YES X NO:




- In case of NO the reason is:
- a) It will be supported in a Category B Project
 - b) Doesn't meet TC Programme Requirements
 - c) Other (Specify):

8. Concept Number & Title:

RAS2012013- Strengthening Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT) Capability in the RCA Region

Submitted by: *Regional/Cooperative Agreement* : X
 Group of Member States: (List) : _____
 Other: : _____

Comments: The concept was the fifth in the priority order of the RCA Government Parties.

• **On compliance with TC requirements and LFA**

The concept is in compliance with TC requirements. It aims at improving the capability to implement Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT) in the region. IMRT is identified as the priority area in the RCA Strategic Priorities for 2012-2017).

• **Specific Technical Comments**

Situation and gap analysis is quite comprehensive and realistic. The concept builds on the achievements of previous RCA projects and proposes a concrete idea for additional technical support for further improvement. The main focus on capacity building through transfer knowledge and expertise from relatively more advanced to less advanced countries, which will promote TCDC concept. There should be a clear elaboration on the specific role and contributions of "resource" and "recipient" countries.

Existing infrastructure is highly variable among the countries in the region, the current elaboration is insufficient. There are many countries in the region that should consolidate existing facilities and ensure good practice in 3D CRT (or a safe transition to 3D CRT). IMRT is a more sophisticated development of three-dimensional conformal radiotherapy (3D-CRT). 3D-CRT is considered the gold-standard. The role of IMRT radiotherapy is not fundamental, and needs complementary of non-nuclear techniques.

There is a need to consolidate the existing facilities and human resources during the design stage in order to have full understanding of the situation and to determine the possibility of country participation to gain benefit from the project.

The requirements for participation are clearly defined in terms of both infrastructure and human resources. Fulfilment of these requirements should be verified and ascertained during the design phase. For effective participation and active cooperation, only those countries that could fulfil the requirements should be encouraged to participate in the project.

The list of national institutions and counterparts are specified explicitly and mainly quoted from the on-going project RAS6053. Considering that the new project is a follow up of RAS6053, the

suggested list seems reasonable. However, it should be verified and validated confirmed during the design stage.

As the project aims at capacity building, regional activities should be carefully designed. The proposed three regional training courses throughout the project duration seems too little and should be increased.

There is the high possibility to establish partnership with other stakeholder institutions, such as WHO and PACT. This aspect should be further assessed and developed during the design stage.

- **Recommended for moving forward to design phase:** YES ☒ NO: _____

In case of NO the reason is:

- a) It will be supported in a Category B Project
- b) Doesn't meet TC Programme Requirements
- c) Other (Specify):

9. Concept Number & Title:

RAS2012014 - Addressing Climate Change Impacts on Food Security Using Food Irradiation Technology in the Asia Pacific region

Submitted by: *Regional/Cooperative Agreement* : ☒
Group of Member States: (List) : _____
Other: : _____

Comments: The concept was the fourth in the priority order of the RCA Government Parties.

- **On compliance with TC requirements and LFA**

The concept is in compliance with TC requirements. It aims at harmonizing regional approaches and strategies in dealing with the impacts of climate change on food security using radiation technology. The use of irradiation for phytosanitary purposes is identified as the priority area in the RCA Strategic Priorities for 2012-2017).

- **Specific Technical Comments**

The concept title suggests that the project is dealing with three relevant and important aspects: climate change, food security and food irradiation technology, but the analysis does not elaborate well the linkage of these three aspects and the strategy to address them. Yet, the situation analysis is rather generic and should be improved with specific focus on the Asia and Pacific region.

The project should aim at both capacity building and regional standard setting. As similar technical support is provided under the on-going RCA project: Implementing Best Practices of Food Irradiation for Sanitary and Phytosanitary (RAS5057), there should be a clear elaboration on the linkages and synergies between these two projects. It is also important to define clearly the different support being requested under the new project.

Information regarding relevant stakeholders and potential end users is vaguely elaborated. As the project is expected to have a broad impact, involvement of various stakeholders for effective implementation should be foreseen. It is suggested that stakeholder analysis be conducted more

comprehensively. This is of particular importance as the project results and outcomes will generate economic and environmental impacts and consequences.

The suggested participating countries, national institutions and counterparts are specified explicitly. As the information was simply quoted from the relevant on-going RCA project (RAS5057), it should be verified and confirmed during the design stage.

Requirements for participation are missing and should be clearly defined. This should include adequate laboratory (food and irradiation facilities) and human resources in terms of the applicability of food irradiation technologies. Fulfilment of these requirements should be verified for effective participation and cooperation.

The proposed 2-year duration is too short for effective implementation and achievement of the anticipated objective. A minimum 3 years with sizable budget and substantial regional activities should be envisaged. The Government cost sharing and contributions of the other partners, although in-kind, should be clearly defined and confirmed.

- **Recommended for moving forward to design phase:** YES X NO:

In case of NO the reason is:

- a) It will be supported in a Category B Project
- b) Doesn't meet TC Programme Requirements
- c) Other (Specify):

10. Concept Number & Title:

RAS2012015 - Radiation Processing Application For Improving Agricultural Productivity Adaptable To Social Development And Food Security

Submitted by: *Regional/Cooperative Agreement* : X
Group of Member States: (List) :
Other: :

Comments: The concept was the eighth in the priority order of the RCA Government Parties.

- **On compliance with TC requirements and LFA**

The concept is in compliance with TC requirements. It aims at radiation processing for improving agricultural productivity with food security as an extension. The Radiation processing technology for specific applications is identified as the priority area in the RCA Strategic Priorities for 2012-2017).

- **Specific Technical Comments**

The concept is mainly focusing on R&D, with an overall objective to strengthen research collaboration for radiation processing applications for improving agricultural productivity and food security. However, as RCA projects are focusing on technology transfer and applications,

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through cooperative modalities, the project, based on the existing nature, may not totally suit the requirements.

The analysis of problem and need is not well formulated. Analysis of objective is also not clear and does not provide useful information to justify the importance and contribution of the project. It is suggested to re-conduct the situation and problem analysis, using the problem tree, and convert the analysis into the objective tree to define the framework and specific objective of the project.

The list of suggested counterparts and counterpart institutions is incomplete and contains no information that could be an evidence of interest of the countries suggested to be participating in the project.

The requirements for participation are vaguely elaborated and too generic to be used as the criteria for considering countries' participation. It is suggested to specify clearly the required specific infrastructure and human resources for effective participation. The assessment should be carefully conducted and verified.

Successful implementation of the project is expected to be beneficial to agricultural sector. However, the concept did not elaborate sufficiently the involvement and participation of these stakeholders. It was suggested that UNDP may be a principal donor and partner, but the statement does not contain any supporting information as to how and if this will happen.

The proposed 2-year duration seems too short for effective implementation. A minimum 3 years with sizable budget and substantial regional activities may be envisaged. The estimated budget is provided without detailed description. Request of procurement item was also stated, which is not appropriate for RCA projects. The project proponents are advised to review the policy and practices in RCA carefully. Supporting evidences are required for government cost sharing of Euro 300,000 and contribution of other partner of Euro 100,000.

In conclusion, the proposed concept is not recommended to the design stage.

Given that there is another RCA proposed concept (RAS2012014) that addresses the food security issue, some of the aspects of this concept could be merged in/incorporated with RAS2012014 - Addressing Climate Change Impacts on Food Security Using Food Irradiation Technology in the Asia Pacific region.

- **Recommended for moving forward to design phase:** YES ☐ NO: ☒ X

In case of NO the reason is:

a) It will be supported in a Category B Project

b) Doesn't meet TC Programme Requirements

c) Other (Specify): some of the aspects of this concept could be merged in/incorporated with RAS2012014 - Addressing Climate Change Impacts on Food Security Using Food Irradiation Technology in the Asia Pacific region.

11. Concept Number & Title:

RAS2012016 - Characterization and optimization of process dynamics in complex industrial systems using emerging radiotracer and sealed source technology

Submitted by: *Regional/Cooperative Agreement* : X
Group of Member States: (List) :
Other: :

Comments: The concept was the seventh in the priority order of the RCA Government Parties.

- **On compliance with TC requirements and LFA**

The concept is in compliance with TC requirements. It aims at enhancing the regional capability in using innovative radiotracers and sealed source techniques for investigation of complex industrial systems. Use of radiotracers for industrial troubleshooting and process optimisation is identified as the priority area in the RCA Strategic Priorities for 2012-2017).

- **Specific Technical Comments**

The concept is a request for a one-year extension of the on-going RCA project: "Characterizing and optimizing process dynamics in complex industrial systems using radiotracer and sealed source techniques (RAS1012). The RAS1012 was approved for implementation for 2012-2014, with sufficient budget. The concept does not specify the rationale why the extension is required. Given that the project implementation has just started in 2012, the progress and initial achievements are not obviously seen, the proposed extension is considered premature and not justified.

It is suggested that the project implementation be conducted according to the agreed work plan and within the available budget. Progress and results of the project implementation should be reviewed and assessed comprehensively during the project mid-term review meeting. Should there be the clear need and justification of additional activities in order to fully achieve the project objectives, the project work plan and budget may be adjusted without going through project extension.

- **Recommended for moving forward to design phase: YES NO: X**

In case of NO the reason is:

a) It will be supported in a Category B Project

b) Doesn't meet TC Programme Requirements

c) Other (Specify): The proposed concept could be considered within the framework of the on-going: RAS1012,

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